

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

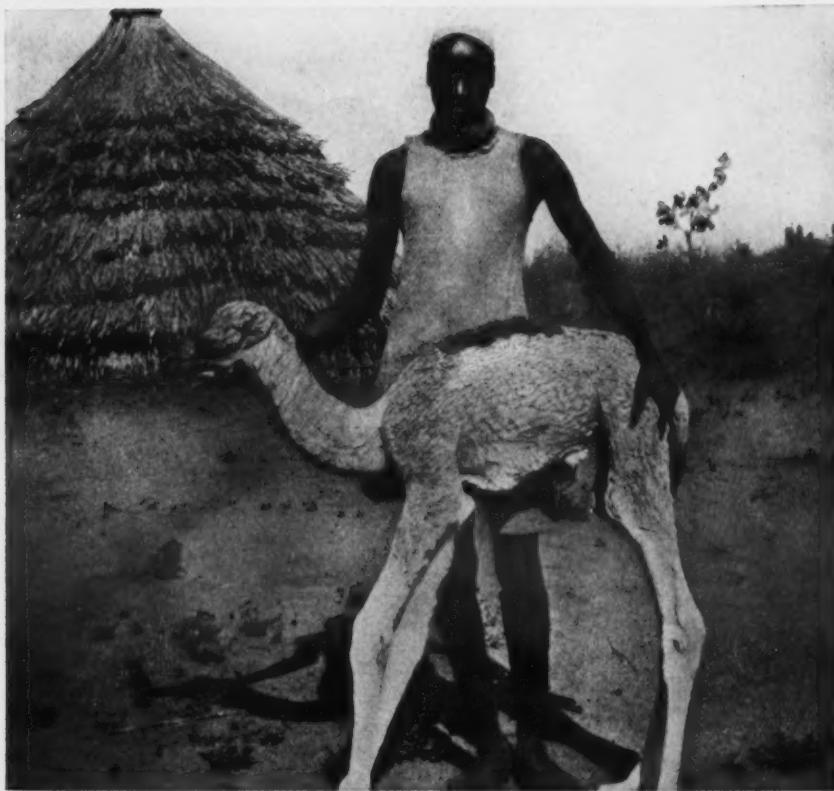
THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10, 1924. Vol. III. No. 16.

1. Honor for Walloons Who Started New York.
 2. The Geography of Your Medicine Chest.
 3. The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan: Possible Rival of Dixie.
 4. Bulgaria: The Real Land of Roses.
 5. Allahabad: City of Sanctity and Dust and Floods.
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TWO-DAY-OLD CAMEL CALF AT DARFUR, ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 116, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 8, 1922.

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Honor for Walloons Who Started New York

"WHO ARE the Walloons?" is the question that arises in the minds of many who receive or send letters bearing the special Huguenot-Walloon-New Netherlands Tercentenary postage stamp. A possible answer is "half a Belgian."

The name "Walloon" is little known on this side of the Atlantic, even less so than "Fleming," because both have been merged in the national name, "Belgian."

The Walloons may be said to form the French-speaking half of Belgium, for though a very few in out-of-the-way districts know only the Frenchlike old Walloon language, modern French has replaced that speech for the vast majority of the Walloons. The other half of the Belgian partnership is made up by the Flemings, whose speech, Flemish, differs very little from Dutch. The Catholic people of Flanders, however, have been divided from their kinsmen, the Protestant Dutch, by a religious gulf for hundreds of years, and prefer to cleave to their fellow religionists, the Walloons.

A Boundary Not on the Maps

An almost straight line can be traced on the surface of Belgium separating the Walloons from the Flemings. It runs from Aix-la-Chapelle, just inside the German border, westward to strike the French boundary a short distance southeast of Ypres. There is little to mark this line to the eye of the traveler who crosses it; but his ear will soon tell him that he has passed from one language zone to another. The line marks what was once the edge of a dense forest covering the rough land of southern Belgium.

To this line the old Walloons—the Belgae of Julius Caesar—were pressed by the southward-faring Teutons who took possession of and cultivated the plains and swamps of northern Belgium. These immigrant Teutons, from whom the Flemish people sprang, did not enter the forest country, and there the Walloons remained entrenched. Save for isolated groves the forest has disappeared today, giving place to mines, factories, farms and gardens; but the Flemish-Walloon racial line is almost as sharply marked as it was fourteen hundred years ago.

The Walloons, in their native land today are practically all Catholics; but there were religious differences among them in the seventeenth century, and it was fugitive Protestant Walloons who played a prominent part in peopling America. While the Spanish were endeavoring to root out heresy in the Netherlands hundreds of thousands of both Walloons and Flemings fled to the newly set-up Protestant Dutch Republic just as some of the Pilgrim Fathers fled there from England. It was Walloons from among these fugitives who, like the Pilgrims and French Huguenots, emigrated to America.

New Avesnes Became New Amsterdam, Then New York

In the first ship sent to the present territory of the United States by the Dutch West India Company, the *New Netherland*, which landed in the Hudson River in 1623, Walloons, led by Jesse de Forest, were passengers. The eight families left on Manhattan, which was named New Avesnes, constituted the first settlement of that now famous and valuable island, and the first homemakers, in fact, in the Middle States. The next and succeeding years brought more



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CHATEAU BESIDE THE LESSE, NEAR DINANT, SCENE OF WAR CARNAGE

Many chateaux in French style dot the Walloon country of Belgium. Liege, regarded as one of the leading towns of the French-speaking people of Belgium, was caught in the first tidal wave of conflict during the World War. Walloonia as a whole bore the brunt of much fighting. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

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The Geography of Your Medicine Cabinet

WHENCE would the home remedies go if they went home? Put this question to the family medicine cabinet but keep the door closed. If contents of the bottles by some magic were to depart for their native lands, the householder would have to spend years of travel and thousands of dollars for train, steamer, rickshaw, junk, camel and bullock cart fare to gather them once more.

When a man gets sick he calls on the whole world as well as a doctor to make him healthy, the geography of a typical home medicine cabinet discloses.

Nations Rush to Willie's Aid

Willie Jones went on an apple raid and got a stomach ache, a cold in his head from wet feet, and a bruise on his shoulder and a cut on his hand when he fell out of the apple tree. Willie's mother made him swallow essence of Asia for his stomach ache, rubbed his shoulder with spirits of Taiwan (Formosa), made him take a pellet composed of a substance from a treasury millions of years old, and an acid from the forest timber for his cold, cleaned the cut with tincture of South America and bound up his hand with a product of Georgia, Colorado, Greece and the busy bee.

In the family medicine cabinet these heroic-sounding remedies bore more familiar names. Ginger, a bulb from India, relieved his stomach. Spirits of the camphor tree from Japan's tropic island took the pain out of his shoulder. Aspirin or acid acetylsalicylic, for his cold, came partly from coal tar pressed into coal from vegetation during the carboniferous age and partly from ordinary wood vinegar. Willie's mother prevented infection in the cut with iodine, a by-product of Chile's nitrates. She wrapped up his hand with cotton gauze and adhesive tape, the latter containing cotton from Georgia, lead oxide from Colorado, olive oil from Greece, and wax.

Contributions from curious sources come to the medicine cabinet. Land animals, fish, flowers, plants, trees, ancient rocks, salts dissolved in superheated waters centuries ago, and steaming springs are often represented in the emergency case.

Banda Gives Essence of Nutmeg and History

When a woman faints nations gallantly join hands to bring her to consciousness. To make aromatic spirits of ammonia the chemist buys ammonia from a smelly gas plant, begs oil of lemon from Nice, a playground of Europe, and obtains a bit of delicate oil of lavender from Genoa. He goes to the Banda Islands, out-of-the-way dots on the map of the Dutch East Indies, for oil of myristica, which is distilled from nutmegs, and adds alcohol from a corn field.

Not only do the Banda Islands supply the essence of nutmeg, but also the essence of history—the history of stirring conquests of world colonies, of wars over spice, of Venice that was, of Vasco da Gama's voyage and of the Spice Islands' place in world affairs today. Marble palaces on Venetian canals were built with cargoes of nutmegs. But Shakespeare's Antonio and his fellow merchants never knew from whence they came. Venetian traders got them from the Arabs, the Arabs from India, and beyond that they knew not.

The Portuguese trailed the mysterious nutmeg to the nearly submerged

Dutch than Walloon immigrants, and though the latter played important parts in the new land they were eventually swallowed up in the Dutch and Huguenot communities just as New Avesnes was swallowed up by New Amsterdam.

Since they came into existence from a merging of the old Gallic Belgae and the Romans, the Walloons have given leaders to important historical movements. Charlemagne and Charles Martel may be considered among the original Walloons. Peter the Hermit, preacher of the First Crusade, who started one of the most important movements historically and socially that the world has ever known, was a Walloon; so was Godfrey of Bouillon, who led this initial expedition of Europe's chivalry to the Holy Land.

As a people the Walloons have also been leaders. The revolution of 1830 which separated the Belgians from their temporary connection with Holland was led largely by the Walloons. The new Belgium, then set up, was begun as a French-speaking country. Recognition of the claims of the Flemings since, however, has brought about the passage of laws placing the two languages on an equal footing.

Liege, one of the earliest Belgian towns to suffer from the German invasion during the World War, is the center of Wallonia or "the Walloon country," as the French-speaking portion of Belgium is termed. Much of the region is dotted with fine old chateaux and the newer country places of wealthy city dwellers. Roughly Wallonia is Belgium's factory, while Flanders is its garden.

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RELIGIOUS DEVOTEE CHANTING AT THE ALLAHABAD MELA

The barren sands at Prag, the place of sacrifice, yearly teem with pilgrim crowds and every twelve years the Mela is an outpouring of millions. In 644 A. D. the Emperor Harsha here distributed the wealth gained in six years of war to Buddhist, Jain and Brahman holy men, in a festival which lasted for 75 days. (See Bulletin No. 5.)

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The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan: Possible Rival of Dixie

THE FOREMOST "Fuzzy Wuzzy" is reported to be hiking to Mecca. Osman Digna is the name of the famous leader of the tribesmen that Kipling sang—and he has just been released from 21 years' imprisonment at Wady Halfa. The "Fuzzy Wuzzies" got their name from the way they wore their hair.

The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, where the exploits of the "Fuzzy Wuzzies" once challenged British military rule, now forms the subject of diplomatic discussions between Great Britain and Egypt.

As in the case of all else Egyptian, the value of the Sudan hangs on the Nile and its life-giving waters. Great Britain sees in the country, however, a great source of raw materials for her cotton mills.

Long a Source of Slaves

Considered only from a geographical point of view, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is a southern continuation of Egypt, but politically and ethnically Egypt has been unable to follow up very successfully the suggestions of geography. The ancient empire of the Pharaohs had some control over the northern parts of what is now the Sudan; but modern Egypt had no claims to any part of the region until 1820 when an Egyptian army invaded the country to the south and conquered it. A government largely of Turks, Albanians and Circassians was set up and the people were systematically oppressed. Slave raiding became the big business, and thousands of luckless blacks from the remote parts of the country were carried into captivity every year.

In the late sixties the Egyptians obtained the services of Europeans, chiefly Britons, as governors and officials in the Sudan, and some effort was made at reforms. General Gordon served as governor for many years.

Slipped Out of Egypt's Hands

The fanatical Mahdi movement arose in the Sudan in 1881; by 1885 Khartum had fallen and Gordon was murdered; and soon all semblance of Egyptian control over the country had again passed away. From that time until 1898 local Mohammedan despots held sway in the Sudan and even attempted the conquest of Egypt, though unsuccessfully.

The reconquest of the Sudan took place between 1896 and 1898 by joint British and Egyptian forces led by "Kitchener of Khartum." It is on this participation in the conquest, and the treaty with Egypt following it, that Great Britain bases her claims on the Sudan.

The Sudanese are not Egyptians. They were Nubians and other blacks to begin with. Arabs came in and intermarried with them, and now the population is a marvelous mixture—a "Negro potpourri"—many of whom speak Arabic and most of whom are Moslems. Nor do the Sudanese like the Egyptians. About their only tie in common is that both live on and by the waters of the Nile.

Land of Huge Distances

"The Sudan" is by rights the name of the entire region just south of the Sahara extending across Africa from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. The

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volcanic cone, Banda. Here they built a fort. The Dutch fought the Portuguese for the nutmeg island and are still there. Ice boxes, which outlaw tainted food, make it unnecessary to drown food with spice, so business in the Spice Islands slumped. They now turn to medicines, quinine, myristica, camphor, and ginger. But deserted Dutch mansions in Banda are monuments to another medicine, hair tonic.

Our grandfathers, with a fellow fear of baldness, put Macassar oil on their hair. This oil, which made the antimacassar an essential on the backs of nineteenth century easy chairs, was made from a seed of an Indian tree, which, like the nutmeg tree, grew readily in Banda. Dutch "mynheers" became opulent by selling Macassar oil until it went out of fashion, taking with it Banda's prosperity.

Epsom Salts From Health Springs of Old Greece

Epsom salts, which takes its name from health springs at Epsom, England, near the famous Derby downs, and milk of magnesia are made chiefly from magnesite mined on the island of Euboea, off the east coast of Greece, in the Italian Piedmont and near Madras, India. Euboea had health springs also and they were visited by the Grecians.

Boracic acid, an eye wash, or as borax, a washing salt, not only comes from Death Valley, made famous by the twenty-mule team, but also and chiefly from the bowels of the earth. In all Italy Tuscany is one of the richest farming provinces except for its low coastal plain, the Maremma, a fever spot, which contains steaming springs. Boric acid was found in lagoons made by these springs. Finally engineers decided to put artificial walls around the spring and let the water flow from tank to tank. Evaporation brings boric acid crystals naturally and these are skimmed off, dried and sent into commerce.

Bulletin No. 2, November 18, 1924.

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Bulgaria: The Real Land of Roses

WHAT is Bulgaria like?

Bulgaria's diplomatic representative at Berlin recently protested that Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man," as staged by a German producer, did not picture Bulgarians fairly. From "The Chocolate Soldier," musical comedy version of Shaw's play, comes the familiar song "My Hero."

Actually Bulgaria is a country largely of peasants, scornful of idleness and pretense, yet producers of what is perhaps the world's best known symbol of luxury, attar of roses.

Bulgaria is often considered merely "one of the Balkan states." But whatever its faults and its virtues, it certainly is not colorless, and it fully deserves to stand on its own feet. The differences between the Bulgars and the Turks are plain, and 500 years of domination by the latter did not serve to remove them. There is almost as much of a racial gulf between the Bulgars and the Greeks; and their differences are increased by an ancient enmity dating from the time when the Bulgars were a threatening spear-point against the Greek Byzantine empire, and later when for a space Bulgaria was tributary to that same Byzantium. The Rumanians to the north are Latins and they, too, are racially distinct from the Bulgars. It is only to the Serbs and other Jugo-Slavs that the Bulgars are related, and that relationship is not close enough to have brought about friendship or lasting cooperation. In a phrase, the Bulgars are "Slavs who are different."

The very name "Bulgar" is of non-Slavic origin. It was applied to natives by Tatar conquerors from southern Russia in 679. Relatively few in number, the Bulgars merged themselves with the Slavs and adopted the Slavic language and customs. They were but the spice which has given the Slavic Bulgarians of today the flavor that makes them different from their brother Slavs. Their contribution to Bulgarian character seems to have been coolness, practicality and tenacity.

Farms Limited to 74 Acres or Less

Agriculture has always held first place in the life of the Bulgarians. Turkish domination for half a millennium made farming still more general among the Bulgars, for practically no other calling was left open to them. By weeding out the upper classes, too, the Turks made Bulgarian agriculture more and more a peasant activity. And now, by legislation, the Bulgarians themselves are emphasizing farming on a small scale. A national law limits the estate that an individual may hold to a maximum of about 74 acres and most of the holdings are much smaller. Another law aims to abolish a leisure class by requiring all adults between certain ages to work.

Bulgaria long suffered not only from the tyranny of the non-Christian Turk, but also from the diplomatic deals of the Christian powers of Europe. Russia liberated the country from the Turkish yoke by the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 and proposed to set it up as an independent nation with considerably more territory than it has today. But other powers, fearful of a strong state in the Balkans, compelled the transfer of areas to nearby states, divided the territory that was left into Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia, and placed both back under

region along the upper Nile and extending in a broad band eastward to the Red Sea, is properly "the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan." But even this restricted portion of the Sudan is a huge country. One travels 600 miles by rail south from the southern Egyptian border before he reaches Khartum. From there south one may travel another thousand miles on a flat-bottomed river steamer to the southern boundary of the Sudan—and that point is about one-third the way to the Cape of Good Hope.

The entire valley of the Nile in the Sudan is very rich; and most important, it has first chance at the water that comes down the long channel of the White Nile from Africa's Great Lakes, and down the Blue Nile from the Abyssinian highlands. More and more cotton is being grown in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and the country may one day prove a rival to the Land of Dixie.

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ARMED TO THE TEETH

A Serbian chief fully accoutred. Bulgarians are more nearly related racially to the Serbians than any other unit of the Balkans. The Bulgars are Slavs like their western neighbors but their Tartar stock was seasoned by the originally hardy Bulgars. (See Bulletin No. 4.)

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Allahabad: City of Sanctity and Dust and Floods

ALLAHABAD, center of a region of India which has suffered severe floods recently, usually has a contrasting complaint—it is too dusty. Indeed, it has been called a city of sanctity and dust.

The city was a stopping place for the American aviators who flew around the world. It lies in about the latitude of Key West, but it is a far inland river town more comparable, in its surroundings, to Kansas City. From Calcutta it is about one-third of the way across the top of the peninsula of India, where the sacred and muddy Ganges and the also sacred and muddy Jumna join. The city has a population of 172,000, including a colony of several thousand westerners. Most of the few Americans residing in the place are missionaries or teachers in the American Christian College.

Religious Fairs Draw Pilgrim Multitudes

Ordinarily Allahabad is an uninteresting city, but when its *melas* or religious fairs have drawn hundreds of thousands of pilgrims together it takes on an odor of sanctity—and dust.

Once a year the Magh Mela is held. Once in twelve years the Kumbh Mela buries the sands of the alluvial plain beneath a flood of human beings. A mela is a religious fair, but melee is as good a word. At the annual fair the number of pilgrims on a given day is only a quarter of a million; but in 1930, if all goes well, a million and a half pilgrims will come hither to stir up the fine dust, skid through the slippery clay, and bathe in the chocolate-colored waters of the sacred rivers.

During a mela the whole countryside is placed under strict control. No carriages are allowed in the grounds. Sanitation becomes, for a time, a serious matter. Photographing is forbidden without special permission and a bodyguard.

Before the January fair takes place a village of rush shelters springs up on the low shore, which the receding water has left parched and cracked into great squares. Flags, which may or may not mean anything more than display, but upon which most of the *dramatis personae* of Mother Goose and the jungle books appear, rise on bamboo poles whose assertion of individual independence gives an inebriated look to the row of fluttering pennants. No two have the same slant. A corn field is a miracle of geometric precision compared with this awkward squad of waving flags.

Holy Men Foregather

Holy men, dressed in a gray coat of ashes, chat with one another or sit in silent meditation, while others, sheltered from the fierce sun by a rush screen or protected by a cloak or blanket hung to sunward, chant psalm after psalm from their holy books, wedged like a Koran on a small stand, while they accentuate the monotony of their tones by strumming on a musical instrument which seems to be a hybrid of mandolin and soup ladle, much the same type of instrument that one finds far away across Persia, pictured on the ancient Hittite ruins on the upper Euphrates.

Yellow-faced gods in groups of four or six spread their tawdry silk skirts in mute appeal for largesse in coins of microscopic value. Over the whole ant

guardianship of Turkey. Bulgaria, a semi-independent principality, elected a German prince for its ruler and remained much as it was created for seven years. Then by a coup d'état Eastern Rumelia was annexed to the principality, an arrangement accepted by Turkey. Full independence came only in 1908 when the then Prince Ferdinand proclaimed himself tsar like the Bulgarian rulers of the country's ancient golden age.

Best Known For Rose Culture

Poor leadership during the last decade has given Bulgaria a bad name with much of the outside world. After the war in which Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece defeated Turkey in 1912, there was a war over the spoils between Bulgaria and the other former allies, with Rumania finally intervening against Bulgaria. The responsibility for this conflict, whether rightly or wrongly, has generally been laid at the door of Bulgaria. During the World War, perhaps largely because of the Hohenzollern blood of the Bulgarian tsar, Bulgaria lined up with Germany, Austria and Turkey.

There is a temptation to consider Bulgaria, touching Greece as it does, a southern country. But its latitude is approximately that of Iowa. Its area, incidentally, is some 12,000 square miles less than that of Iowa. The principal port, Varna, on the Black Sea, is farther north than Boston, and its harbor is often frozen in winter. The southern portion of the country, however, becomes very hot in summer.

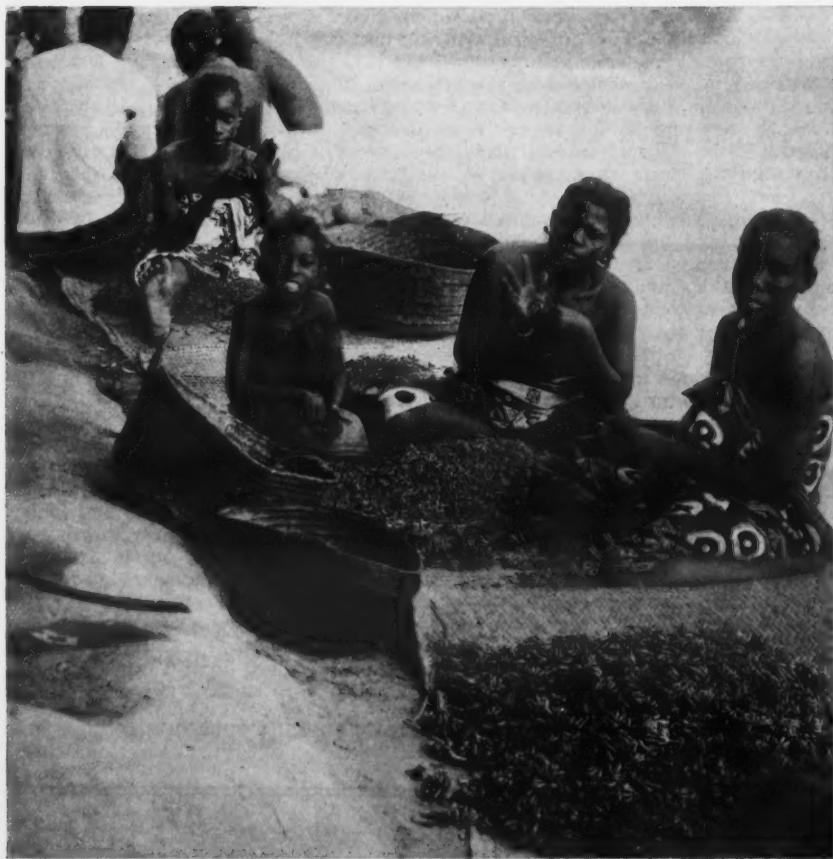
Though Bulgaria produces the usual grains, fruits, tobacco and livestock of its part of the world, it is best known for its extensive culture of roses for the manufacture of the famous and valuable attar of roses. The number of acres of roses cultivated for this purpose in Bulgaria has approached 20,000. An acre produces about 4,000 pounds of rose petals, but this great bulk of petals yields only about 20 ounces of attar. The product from a whole acre is therefore little more than one pound. This much-sought essence, however, is worth from \$60 up per pound in Bulgaria and many times more than that in foreign countries.

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colony of massed humanity there hangs a yellow dust cloud, stirred up by myriads of bare feet and awkward slippers with huge hanging tongues. Stooping street-sprinklers with swollen water-skins weave back and forth, rescuing a wide roadway from the dusty strand which in summer is hidden beneath the murky waters of the sacred rivers.

Out beyond the line of religious boats, each with its tinsel shrine, the pilgrims seek the place where the cleansing flood of the Jumna enters the sacred Ganges, and coffee-colored rivers make a coffee-colored people whiter than snow—in their own estimation.

Bulletin No. 5, November 10, 1924.



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BREAKING CLOVES FROM THE STEMS: ZANZIBAR

Medicines take a place beside spices in the east's contributions to civilization. The clove, as we know it, is the partially developed bud of a tree which grows to a height of about 15 feet. These buds are produced in great profusion in clusters. The clusters are gathered and dried, turning from red to brown. The unexpanded corolla forms the head and the calyx the stem of the clove. Once dried, the cluster is broken from the stem by pressing them against the palm of the hand. The woman in the middle foreground is demonstrating the process. (See Bulletin No. 2.)

